



## **GRADING POLICY**

The objective of the club grading policy is not focused primarily on generating teams that dominate age divisions but rather on the club implementing a duty of care to its players ensuring they enjoy playing in a suitable team compatible to their size, ability, physical strength and comfort level in playing a full contact sport.

Rugby League is a competitive sport and whilst we all enjoy a win, the club must prioritise the health and safety of all players when allocating players to teams and ensure a duty of care is displayed in endeavouring to match players to teams adequate to their ability, this will hopefully ensure they enjoy their football (even more) and see players keen to return season after season comfortable that they can play at a level that matches their skills.

The Grading Policy is designed to give players, parents, coaches and managers a clear understanding of the grading process and to ensure that grading of teams is undertaken in a consistent manner. In grading players the aim is to promote fairness, safety, consistency and transparency.

The primary objective, where ever possible is for all players to be graded into a team best suited to their ability by way of an equitable process recognising individual players have different motivations for playing Rugby League, varying levels of physical development and are at different stages of their core skill development.

### **Who will be Graded?**

Grading will apply to all players in ages Under 6's and up (Mini, Mod and International Competitions) where there is more than 1 team in an age group. Once grading has been completed players will not be swapped between teams during the season. Situations where moving players between teams may be necessary might include 1) safety concerns 2) injury or illness, these will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the club.

### **The Grading Process**

Grading will be performed by a panel of three (3); made up of two (2) independent selectors and the coach (If the coach has not been appointed and or joint coaches in an age group are unable to agree on a grading then a third independent selector will appointed (at the discretion of the President) in place of the coach/coaches). The independent selectors may consist of other coaches within that age group or the coaching coordinator for that age group. Other persons are also eligible to participate as an independent selector but must first be approved by the coaching coordinator and the committee.

Grading will occur during pre-season training sessions and in organised trials, both internal & external.

### **Criteria**

Grading will be based on both objective and subjective assessments of the individual player across the following criteria:

## **1. Welfare and Safety of the Player**

The club requires the grading panel to first and foremost consider the duty of care the club has to the welfare and safety of the player to ensure a player is not exposed to a level of football beyond their current capability.

## **2. Fitness**

Fitness levels can be determined by testing the various components of fitness such as aerobic and muscular endurance, speed, strength, power and agility.

## **3. Skill execution and technique**

Assessment of the core skills of rugby league (catch, pass, ball running, evasion, tackling and defence) will take place during controlled drills at training.

## **4. Game Sense**

This is based on the players' decision-making ability, tactical awareness, positional play and ability to accurately execute skills in a game situation.

## **5. Attitudes and Application**

Selection will also be based on the demonstration of a positive attitude and sportsmanship, application and dedication to training and games, team balance, willingness to learn, contribution to a team environment and leadership qualities.

## **6. Attendance**

The selectors will take into account the players commitment to attend training sessions and games.

## **7. Player Position and Team Structure**

The selection process will also take into consideration the team make-up and players will be picked with the best interests and balance for the team in mind. The teams will be selected with the best available player in their respective positions. It will be up to the selectors to determine if a player will be competent enough to adapt to a positional change.

## **Appeals**

If any parent feels that there has been a significant error or oversight in the grading their child receives, they can make a written submission (no later than 5 days after team lists have been announced) to the Rouse Hill Rhinos President or Secretary outlining the reasons they feel the grading is incorrect and requesting a review of the grading.

The submission must outline, based on the selection criteria, why the grading is deemed incorrect. The President will consider this submission in consultation with the selection panel and Coaching Coordinator and a final decision on whether or not to change the player's grading will be determined. This determination will be full and final and the parent, player and coach must accept same - no further review or appeals will be considered.

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